Playing with Top Speed

This Story is set 3 Weeks before Magical Girl Raising Project
This Story is set 1 Year before Magical Girl Raising Project: Restart

Ayuna Sakanagi looked up to Ruler.

She was the ideal one. She was the correct one. She was the one that knows what to do, when nobody else would.

So of course, her words should be law, right?

Ayuna thought so. Ruler was the one person she would always trust. She often wished to become like Ruler.

One day, she will be able to. She just knows it.

Ring Ring!

Ayuna's thoughts were interrupted with a phone call. The words on the screen spell out a name of a close friend of hers.

Tama.

Ayuna answered her phone.

"Yes?"

"Swim-Chan? Where are you? Everyone's already waiting in the café!"

"…Café?"

"For the trip! Did you forget? We're going on a picnic, remember!"

"…Where?"

"The mountainside! You should come quick, Ruler's getting a bit impatient waiting." Ruler was organizing something? Swim Swim must've forgotten about that. This is troubling. Ruler might get angry at her.

She'll have to find some way of making it to her in time.

Tsubame Murota didn't exactly like the word 'play'. To her, it reminded her of her kindergarten and elementary school years, where a lot of kids would just ignore her to play with someone else.

It was a silly thing to dislike. Even Tsubame thought so. She was sure the feeling would pass soon enough.

She even used to resent the thought of settling down and getting married. Yet here she is, with a loving husband and a baby on its way.

Tsubame is an energetic girl, always willing to go the extra mile, and looking for new opportunities.

Her husband, Shoichi Murota, was a calmer and quieter man. He worked at the City Hall, trying to make ends meet for the both of them.

"Honey, I'm going to be home late today," he said to her, as he was preparing his suitcase for work.

Shoichi was all dressed up in a fancy suit and tie. Ready for whatever political machinations that City Hall would have for him.

"Drinking out with the boys?" asked Murota with a smile.

"No, nothing like that. Reporter's interviewing me for an exclusive. Might take a while. Can you handle it here?"

"I'll be fine! The one that should be worrying is you, after all, I'm gonna be here watching you on TV for that exclusive," said Murota with a wink.

They both shared a chuckle.

They embraced each other with a hug.

Shoichi then released his embrace, and unconsciously, his eyes drifted towards Tsubame's stomach, which had a light bulge.

Tsubame noticed. She gave a wry smile.

"Shoichi… are you trying to tell me I've gained weight?" She said with a smile.

Shoichi was startled, and he scratched his head with a chuckle.

“No, nothing like that. It’s just… I’m worried about the baby.”

Murota smiled.

“Don’t worry. We’ll find a way. Focus on your interview, ‘kay?” said Murota, who leaned in forward to give Shoichi a kiss goodbye.

“Love you.”

“You too… Sorry, I was just… worried.”

“I know.”

After the two shared that small kiss, Murota waved goodbye as Shoichi as he left for his car.

With the doors locked, Murota sighed deeply.

She’d been staying at this house for the most part. She didn’t exactly want to tell any of their neighbors that she was pregnant.

It’s been over 3 months since her pregnancy, and that was the same time that she became a Magical Girl.

Ever since she realized about her baby, Murota had spent less time outside, for fear of being judged due to her pregnancy. Shoichi supported her as best as he could, but Murota wished there was a way to repay him back.

As the boredom grew and grew, Murota decided to download a game, *Magical Girl Raising Project*.

To most other players, the reasons for playing the game are due to either the theme or the rumors surrounding it.

To Murota, it was because it was free.

Murota had gotten used to playing single-player games, since she was such a loner as a kid. Playmates are something that she never really had.

Then she was chosen to become a real Magical Girl.

A mix of emotions ran inside of her. Joy, but also fear.

“You’ve been chosen to be a real Magical Girl, Bon!” said a black and white spherical creature.

“…I can’t.”

“Oh, and why is that, Bon?”

“I have… I have a baby. I can’t go out protecting people with a baby on the way.”

The creature twirled around, dropping sparkling glitters in its path.

“Aw, don’t worry about *that*, Bon! Transforming into a Magical Girl both hides your pregnancy *and* ensures your baby’s safe, Bon!”

“Really?”

Of course, when Top Speed transformed, her stomach was back to her usual self. No sign of pregnancy whatsoever.

However, the pregnancy itself still continued. Which meant that as long as she stayed like this, she can protect her baby *and* do some good in the world.

And so, the Magical Girl known as *Top Speed* was born.

Present day, Top Speed snuck out the window, locking it behind her. Her broomstick, *Rapid Swallow*, was ready and waiting for her.

She zoomed out towards the horizon, speeding so fast that no one could possibly catch her in their eyes.

The first thing she was going to do was visit Ripple, if that was possible. That girl is hard to get in contact with, and also is a bit stubborn.

Top Speed was stubborn too back in her younger years.

Playing by herself, not wanting the company of others, that was such a waste of a potentially happy childhood.

Being a loner like that, not having someone you trust to talk with, that wasn't something that anyone should go through.

Ripple is like that now. Top Speed will be there for Ripple, though. Ripple should have some friends, experience something great.

If Ripple can find someone that she trusts enough to talk to her, and maybe even open herself up a bit more, then Top Speed will have done her job as both mentor and friend.

Of course, she first had to contact Ripple.

She turned on her Magical Phone mid-flight. You shouldn't call while driving, but she's sure the rules don't apply to speedy flying broomsticks.

"Hello? Ripple? You there, buddy?"

No answer.

Of course.

Top Speed shrugged. Ripple would always do this. Luckily, if Top Speed *really* wanted to find her, she could easily speed across the city. The eyes of a Magical Girl are sharp, and she could spot her in a crowd if she wanted to.

Then Top Speed's Magical Phone rang.

Ripple?

No, it's not her. It's someone else.

She picked up the call,

"Hello?"

"I need help"

"Well, sure thing, complete stranger! Just gimme a sec and I'll head on over. Oh, how rude of me, I'm Top Speed, what's your name?"

"My name? …It's Swim Swim."

Swim Swim. The Magical Girl under the protection of Ruler. Top Speed knew Ruler, but those other girls of hers don't talk much to strangers.

"Swim Swim? Honestly, I'm kind of surprised that you'd call me out of the blue. What's up?"

"I have to go somewhere fast. A mountaintop retreat."

"Ah… so you need a taxi service, huh? Gotcha, gotcha. Where do you wanna be picked up?"

"…Temple District."

"Alright, catch you in a bit!"

Swim Swim called her. That's a rarity. She said she had wanted to reach the mountainside. What for? Top Speed didn't really know.

She did guess that it might have something to do with Ruler. Swim Swim's not the type of girl that would just willingly go out to a mountain retreat.

Well, before she does anything, she'll have to take care of her own responsibilities first. She took out her Magical Phone, and made a text towards Ripple. First thing's first, Ripple lives near the Red Light District. That's Calamity Mary's territory.

The two of them don't get along at all.

Without Top Speed's supervision, she was worried that Ripple might pick a fight with Mary, even if both of them knew that Mary was a dangerous and crazy individual.

Top Speed couldn't risk it, so she wanted to ensure that Ripple stays away from the Red Light District.

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Ripple. Heading out to Red Light. Gonna apologize to Mary about that
                thing you did last week in her turf
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Top Speed had to use different tactics to appeal to Ripple.

This message was probably going to make Ripple hate Top Speed, but the important thing is that Ripple stays out of Mary's way.

If Ripple thought Top Speed was chatting it up with Mary, Ripple wouldn't even want to get close to them.

Top Speed sighed. The things she does to keep Ripple safe are more important than what Ripple thinks of her as a person.

She clicked send.

30 seconds later, a reply from Ripple.

...Tch

So Ripple *was* on the phone. As expected, she probably wouldn't answer any calls. Still, at least Top Speed knows she got the message.

Now to actually deal with Mary.

She called a number.

"Magicaroid! Buddy! I need you to do me a favor… Wha-nonono, it's not that… Well, yes it *is* that. I need you to distract Mary for just a few hours… Yes, yes, I'll pay you… Wha- 5 *thousand*!? It's just a few *hours*… I know it's dangerous, but you've made it work before… C'mon, 4 thousand… No? Alright, 3 thousand… C'mon, Magicaroid… Alright, alright, but do we have a deal? Great! Knew I could count on you!"

Click

Mary's busy, Ripple won't come near her.

Now she can take care of Swim Swim's request.

She zoomed towards the Temple District, and using her Magical Girl vision, she spotted the one girl in a white swimsuit.

She wondered how Swim Swim could go out in public like that. Wouldn't it attract questions? Of course, Top Speed's case would be even weirder.

With Swim Swim, at least some excuse can be made for why you're wearing a swimsuit.

Top Speed had a full witch outfit. The best explanation *she* could give is Cosplay.

Top Speed wasn't really all that creative with her outfit choice. She just chose a cute Magical Girl-looking outfit and went with it.

But enough thinking around, time to actually pick her up.

She zoomed down near Swim Swim.

"…Top Speed?"

"Heya! I'm the Magical Witch! Top Speed! Nice to meetcha!"

"…Swim Swim."

"Ah, cute name. I remember you from the call. So, ride on!"

Swim Swim nodded, and took a seat behind Top Speed.

"Alright, buckle up, this is gonna be fast."

In an instant, Top Speed boosted the broom towards the sky.

Normal humans would feel the rush and probably be sick or affected in some way. Luckily, these two are Magical Girls, so their bodies are far more resistant.

"…Fast"

"Cool, huh? You can see all of N-City from here!"

"…High up"

"Yep! It's pretty relaxing once you get used to it!"

Swim Swim seems a bit mellow. She looked like a high schooler, so maybe she was like Ripple. A bit of a loner maybe?

"Hey, Swim Swim. How's school?"

"…I don't go to school."

Whoa. Unexpected. Top Speed won't judge her, though.

"Do you have any friends?"

"…Ruler says I don't need anymore friends"

"Whaaat? Y'know, I know Ruler personally"

"…You do?"

"Yeah! We're both veteran Magical Girls, after all. She's my friend"

"Ruler's… friend?"

"And I bet you're her friend too"

"I'm…"

Swim Swim looked like she was interested now. However, she was still at a loss for words.

"Listen, Swim Swim, from the way Ruler treats you all, I know she cares for you guys, she can just… have a hard time showing it"

"…Ruler's word is the right one"

Top Speed can't exactly interfere with any relationship Swim Swim had. Still, though. The least she could do is nudge her in the right direction.

"Y'know, no matter what Ruler says, she does consider you her friend."

"She does…?"

"Why else would she say you don't need any other friends? Might be a little harsh, but I think she cares about all of you, a lot."

Swim Swim hugged Top Speed tightly.

"We're getting late… let's go."

"Whoa, you're right. Time to speed it up!"

And with a quick zip, suddenly, in only a few seconds, they were flying over the mountainside retreat.

Top Speed's broomstick had transformed into a flying motorcycle-like hybrid. With that transformation, the speed increased dramatically than before.

Top Speed could see the wings of two little angelic figures.

The Peaky Angels, Minael and Yunael. Gently, she landed the broomstick near them.

"WHOA!" cried out Yunael

"Oh my god, an *intruder*!" Minael said.

"NYA!?" came a cry from elsewhere in the forested area. Top Speed looked around to see a girl in a dog suit inside a hole in the ground.

"S-Swim Swim!?" said Yunael.

"Why did you bring *Top Speed* here? You trying to sabotage us or something?" Minael said.

"…Sorry. I had to be fast because-"

“Because this idiot forgot the memo and was late to the party.”

A voice from behind them all.

Purple haired Magical Girl. Long staff and cane, with a cape and tiara.
Ruler.

“Swim Swim, did you *forget* about this? Not only did you come here late, you had to drag someone else along with you!?”

“Sorry… Ruler”

Top Speed disembarked from her broomstick. She took out a small lunchbox hidden in her broomstick’s compartments.

This lunch was supposed to be for Shoichi when he got back, but perhaps it’s best to cook another later, and use it now.

“Hey, Ruler! Buddy!”

Top Speed walked in front of Ruler and lightly tapped her shoulder.

“Huh!? What are you doing?”

“Just came to check up on ya. I wanted to visit you in the temple but there was only ol’ Swim Swim here. Asked where you were and she said somewhere in the mountains, so I took her here. Might as well, right?”

“You wha?” asked Ruler dumbfounded.

“…Huh?” Swim Swim herself was confused.

Top Speed turned around to the angels and Swim Swim.

“Lookie here, even cooked lunch for your picnic! Delicious. Guaranteed! Try it out!”

She offered it to Swim Swim, who slowly took it from her hands.

In an instant, Top Speed turned around back to Ruler, wrapped one arm around Ruler’s shoulders, and walked off with her.

“Now, let’s talk a bit private. Got somethin’ us veterans need to say.”

“Wait, huh!?”

Finally out of earshot. Top Speed looked at Ruler with a more serious look.

Top Speed breathed in.

“Look. I’m not gonna tell you how you should run things with your group. But those kids, they look up to you, at least from what Swim Swim tells me.”

“What the hell are you trying to do, Top Speed?”

“All I’m saying is… kids can be rough. Alright? They can be troublesome, tiring, you’re taking care of 4. That’s a lot. Just give ‘em some slack, okay?”

Top Speed winked at Ruler and smiled.

Ruler was slightly speechless, and her face was slightly blushing with embarrassment and anger.

“I’ll have you know, I know how to handle my team. More than you know how to handle your little nuisance of an apprentice”

“Oh, I’m not arguing on that, Ruler. Ripple’s a different beast entirely.”

“Th-Then don’t tell me how to lead *my* team”

“Alright, alright. Now, on to the more important things. Picnic! I’ll join ya for a bit, kay?”

“I never asked you to jo- GAH!”

Top Speed dragged Ruler’s arm and went back into the group of other girls. This time, Tama was among them as well.

“Alright, let’s get this picnic started!” shouted Top Speed happily.

For the whole day, Top Speed spent her time chatting and talking to Ruler’s team. Just before dusk, though, Top Speed had said her farewells.

She didn’t know much about the relationship between Ruler and her 4 teammates, but she knew that there was a reason those 4 followed her.

Ruler is a harsh leader, often giving punishments for the slightest mistakes, but Ruler was also a loving leader, who cares for her team.

Which one comes out at a specific moment depends on Ruler's emotional state.

She was sure there was a reason for Ruler's personality changes. But personal things aren't something Top Speed would barge in on. Hopefully, whatever it is, it'll be settled.

Top Speed did her best to nudge Ruler in the right direction as well. If she was as lucky as she hoped, she could even be a good guardian and mentor to her own apprentice, Ripple.

Ripple would be Top Speed's legacy.

Whatever happens, Top Speed will be there for her. Whatever happens, she will protect Ripple.

With a wry smile, she zoomed out towards the moonlit sky, back on her way home.